

GEORGE W. ECKHART HOUSE
810 MAIN STREET
OHIO COUNTY
WHEELING
WEST VIRGINIA

HABS NO. WV-253

HAB
WYA,
35-WHEEL,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

G. W. ECKHART HOUSE

HABS NO. WV-253

Location: 810 Main Street, (between the Fort Henry Bridge and 8th St.) Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.

USGS: Wheeling Quadrangle, West Virginia--Ohio, Universal Mercator Coordinates 17.523480.4435680

Present Owner: As of April 5, 1990, Sylvan J. Dlesk, Jr. and Rosalie J. Dlesk.

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Significance: In 1891, George W. Eckhart Jr., a wealthy Wheeling banker, built his home in one of the prominent, upper- class neighborhoods, commonly referred to as "Old Town of Wheeling." Along with the Hazlett House and John K. List Houses under construction across the street at 823 and 821 Main Street, the Eckhart House was considered by the Wheeling Daily Intelligencer of October 29, 1891 to be one of the residential building achievements of the year, an example of the "tasteful architecture" that "have thoroughly impressed everybody who gets about over town much."¹

The three-story, red brick townhouse is a fine example of a Queen Anne building, the dominant style of domestic building in the late-nineteenth century. It has a Romanesque, arched brick porch that was an early twentieth century addition to the original 1891 design. The facade features a distinctive oriel window with a painted, pressed metal pendant at the bottom; two impressive stained-glass windows; corbeled wood and painted pressed tin cornices; painted, pressed tin finials; corbeled brick and terra cotta inserts; and decorative hexagonal-shaped slate shingles of various shades of slate on the mansard. The elaborate interior detailing includes numerous wood mantles with decorative carvings and glazed tiles surrounds and hearths; ornamental fretwork and spindlework; lincrusta wainscoting; and hardwood floors with inlaid patterns.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1891. The Ohio County Land Book of 1892 states that George W. Eckhart Jr. had added a building, valued at \$4,000, to the south one-half of Lot 55. In addition, the Wheeling Daily Intelligencer of October 29, 1891 listed the George W. Eckhart House as one among many "building operations in the present seasons in Wheeling." This residence was attributed to George Eckhart for the first time in the Wheeling city directory for 1892-93. Previously, he resided at 128 N. Front.²

2. Architect: Not known.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The Eckhart House was built on the south one-half of Lot 55, parcel no. 39, in the Washington District of Wheeling, commonly known as "Old Town of Wheeling." The title to this property refers to the south one-half of Lot 55 with the exception of the following:

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A strip of ground of uniform width of six feet off the east end of the property was sold to the City of Wheeling by William S. Gashorn in 1874, deed dated September 23, 1874 recorded in Deed Book 62, page 483, and became part of an alley running from Eighth Street to alley 5.

The following references to the title of this lot are found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed books, County Clerk's Office, Wheeling, WV.

- 1801 Deed dated 5 September, recorded in Deed Book 4, page 540. George Knox and Sara his wife, to John Carr, both of Ohio Country, W.V. \$100.00 paid for south one-half of Lot 55. ". . . the said Sarah being examined apart from her said husband relinquished her right of dower."
- 1844 Deed dated 18 April, recorded in Deed Book 27, page 181. John Carr and Nancy his wife, of Jefferson County, Ohio to John Goshorn & wf., of Ohio County, W.V. \$2,000 paid for Lot 55.
- 1869 Will probated 16 June, recorded in Will Book 4, page 502. "I forther give & bequeth to my son William S. Goshorn all the balance of my Astait whether Real or personell to sel & dispose of the same as to him seem proper."
- 1887 Deed dated 11 June, recorded in Deed Book 79, page 507. William S. Gashorn to Frederick J. Park, of Wheeling, WV. \$6,616.50 paid for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1891 Deed dated 07 February, recorded in Deed Book 86, page 225. F. J. Park and Martha H. Park, his wife, to George W. Eckhart Jr., both parties of Wheeling, W.V. \$4,150.00 paid for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1899 Deed dated 27 September, recorded in Deed Book 101, page 485. George W. Eckhart to E.M. Holliday, of Wheeling, WV. "All that part of the South half of lot Number Fifty Five . . . which lies North of the North Wall of the dwelling house. . . said part of said lot fronts about two and one half (2 1/2) inches on Main Street and about three and one half (3 1/2) inches on said alley."
- 1905 Deed dated 27 September, recorded in Deed Book 119, page 484. George W. Eckhart Jr. & Carrie L. Eckhart to Sally T. Rau, wife of R.M. Rau. \$15,000 paid for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1906 Deed dated 13 October, recorded in Deed Book 123, page 186. Sallie Tetrick Rau & R.M. Rau, her husband, to Carrie Gutman Klee. \$16,085.00 paid for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1916 Deed dated 25 July, recorded in Deed Book 155, page 7. Carrie Gutman Klee, wife of Leon Klee, and Leon Klee, her hus., to Mary Doerr, widow, of Wheeling, WV. No declaration of consideration of value for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1918 Deed dated 12 March, recorded in Deed Book 161, page 88. Mary Doerr to Harrison S. Martin, of Wheeling, WV. No declaration of consideration of value for the south one-half of Lot 55.

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- 1943 Will probated 14 January, recorded in Will Book 23, page 409. Wheeling Dollar Savings & Trust Co., a corporation, named as Trustee for trust set up for the use and benefit of the decedent's wife, Mary Hudler Martin. The will also stated that after the death of Mary H. Martin, the trust would be equally divided among Harrison Martin's brothers and sisters: Carl O. Martin, of Spargursville, OH, Milo Q. Martin, of Wheeling, WV, Carrie Martin Elliot, of Northup, OH, and Jessie Martin Stewart, of Bladen, Ohio.
- 1961 Deed dated 5 June, recorded in Deed Book 426, page 462. Wheeling Dollar Savings & Trust Co. as Trustee under the Last Will and Testament of Harrison S. Martin, deceased, to Carl O. Martin, Milo Q. Martin & Carrie Martin Elliot. No declaration of consideration of value for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1963 Deed dated 26 February, recorded in Deed Book 442, page 423. Mildred Martin Foster and Harry H. Foster, hus., of Jamestown, OH; Leo C. Martin, unmarried of Houston, TX; Lawrence E. Martin and Inez Lightle Martin, his wife, of Frankfort, OH; Wayne W. Martin and Edith Mustard Martin, his wife, of Bainbridge, OH; Nellie Martin Lightle and John L. Lightle, her hus., of Waverly, OH; et al., all being heirs at law of Carl O. Martin, to Frank W. Remick and Elizabeth J. Remick, his wife, of Wheeling.
- 1968 Deed dated 19 March, recorded in Deed Book 53, page 382. Frank W. Remick and E.J. to Eliz. G.J. Remick. No declaration of consideration of value for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1976 Deed dated 02 July, recorded in Deed Book 567, page 271. Eliz. G.J. Remick to John P. Stimmel and Anne H., his wife, of Belmont County, Ohio. \$41,500 paid for the south one-half of Lot 55.
- 1990 Deed dated 05 April, not yet recorded in Deed Book. John P. Stimmel and A.H., his wife, to Sylvan J. Dlesk, Jr. and Rosalie J. Dlesk, his wife.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown. It should be noted that there were numerous companies offering architectural and building services in Wheeling during this period. Wheeling's classified business directory for 1890-91 listed eighteen carpenters and builders, twenty contractors, nine bricklayers and contractors, eight iron and nail manufacturers, six planing mills, twelve roofers and five brick manufacturers, among others.³ Thus, while the builder, contractor and suppliers of the Eckhart House remain unknown, it is likely that they came from the Wheeling vicinity.

5. Original plans and construction: No longer extant. The original value of the building, according to the Ohio County Land Book of 1892, was \$4,000.00, a figure arrived at for tax purposes. The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer of October 29, 1891 estimated the cost of the building to be \$6,000.00. However, a local contractor commented that "you can safely add twenty-five per cent to the total of your figures and still have a conservative estimate."⁴

6. Alterations and additions: Between the years 1902 and 1921 an arched brick porch was added to the front of the house replacing a raised landing with stairs.⁵ Additionally, an open porch was added to the rear of the house at the ground level.

These modifications were made after the original owner sold the house and can therefore be attributed to one or more of the subsequent owners between the years 1902 and 1921.

Between 1921 and 1959, a brick garage, 22' x 22' was added to the rear of the property facing the alleyway.⁶

B. Historical Context:

The G.W. Eckhart House at 810 Main Street was built in 1891, the same year that another prominent banker and neighbor, Henry K. List, built two homes, one each for his son and daughter at 821 and 823 Main Street. That year the construction of the G.W. Eckhart House was part of a "magnificent record of building operations in the present seasons in Wheeling" during which "over a million dollars" was spent. Wheeling's commercial and residential building operations were considered to be unprecedented in scope, demonstrating that "progress is the watchword of the community."⁷

Wheeling's building boom in the early 1890s was not an isolated phenomenon. It was part of a process of modernization and urbanization occurring in many cities throughout the United States during the nineteenth century. According to architectural historian Gwendolyn Wright, building was central to the American economy. She states that "in every city, private expenditures for construction, both residential and commercial, and developers' or communities' outlays for public services--including roads, sewer systems, water works and fire departments--constituted the single most important contribution to the nation's economy."⁸

The Eckhart House was considered to be one of the "representative buildings" of Wheeling's progress.⁹ It was estimated to have cost \$6,000.00, a figure that was considered to be low by local contractors at that time. The Wheeling Intelligencer of October 29, 1891 wrote that one of the best contractors in the city said that "... you can safely add twenty-five per cent to the total of your figures and still have a conservative estimate." Three other contractors and architects concurred with this opinion and one of them commented that "the estimate ought to have thirty-three percent added."¹⁰

The architectural achievements of the '90s were noted for their beauty and their reflection of Wheeling's increased social and economic stature. The Wheeling Register's Souvenir Edition of 1896 commented that "during a large part of its history Wheeling could offer little in the way of architectural beauty, but of late years, and particularly within the past six, many modern business houses have been erected, comparing favorably with those found elsewhere in this country; while scores of private residences attest at once the good taste and the private means of our people."¹¹

Along with Chapline Street and Wheeling Island, North Main Street was considered to be of the wealthier areas of Wheeling in the early 1890s. Commonly referred to as "Old Town," the North Main Street neighborhood between 7th Street and 9th Street was one of earliest settled areas of the town. The Zanes settled in Wheeling in 1769 and laid out the first lots in 1793. Ebenezer Zane, one of the founders of Wheeling, built his home c.1800 at Main and 11th Street.¹² In 1805-06, the second brick house in Wheeling was built on the corner of Main and 8th Street.¹³ The arrival of the National Road in 1818--down 7th Street and then south on Main--fostered further settlement. More importantly, it brought Wheeling into a national network of

commerce and manufacturing.

Over the course of the nineteenth century, with developments in transportation, technology and industry, Wheeling continued to expand in population and in importance. In 1831, Congress designated the town a U.S. Port of entry. Eighteen years later, in 1849, the Suspension Bridge crossed the Ohio River and remained for many years the longest clear-span bridge in the world. In 1853, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad brought the first passenger train to Wheeling.¹⁴ By the 1870's Wheeling was known as the "Nail City," producing more kegs of iron, cut nails than any other city in the United States. In 1882, it became the fourth city in the United States to have electric lights and five years later, in 1887, Wheeling replaced their horse-drawn trolleys (which went along Main Street) with the Van De Poole system, becoming the third city in the country to have an electric railway system.¹⁵ In 1888, the Wheeling City Directory stated that "the indications are very favorable that Wheeling is not only increasing very considerably in population, but is on the eve of a very substantial boom . . ."¹⁶ By the early 90's this prophecy had come true. Wheeling had become an industrial center, known particularly for its specialized steel products, with a population of over 34,500.¹⁷

The Eckhart House no doubt was a reflection of these developments. It was an architectural expression of Wheeling's economic prosperity during the late-nineteenth century. Additionally, the Eckhart House contributed to North Main Street's distinction (particularly between 8th and 9th Street), as an elite neighborhood populated by businessmen, professionals and their families. Among the more prevalent, common Italianate row houses,¹⁸ could now be found elaborate Queen Anne town houses.

Like his neighbors in 1891, Henry K. List, president of the City Bank of Wheeling, res. 827 Main St.; Edward Hazlett, broker in the firm of Lewis & Hazlett, res. 823 Main St.; George E. Stifel of the retail dry goods business, George E. Stifel & Co. 807 Main St.; Christian Hess, wealthy merchant tailor, res. 811 Main St.; William Goering, treasurer of the Central Glass Company, res. 701 Main St.; and William Stifel, calico manufacturer, res. 845 Main St., George W. Eckhart Jr. could rank himself among the wealthy, business class of Wheeling.¹⁹

Born in Wheeling in 1844 of German immigrant parents, G.W. Eckhart married Caroline L. Mabis in 1869 and had two children, Estella and Henry L. His first employment was as a clerk and assistant bookkeeper at Stone & Thomas, a local dry goods store. After five years, he assumed the position of secretary & treasurer for the North Wheeling Glass Company. By 1874 he became the receiving and paying teller for the National Bank of West Virginia and in 1879 he assumed the post of bookkeeper and teller of the Peoples Bank of Wheeling, WV, located at Twelfth and Main streets. In 1880 he was promoted to cashiership. After the company merged with Citizen's Mutual, Eckhart became vice president and remained with the company until "he left public life," retiring in 1927 at age 85. He was a stockholder in Wheeling Steel and Iron Company, the Neuralgyline Company, Hicks and Hoge Dry Goods Company among others. He was also a member of the American Bankers' Association, the State Bank Association, the Business Men's Association, the Board of Trade and the First Presbyterian Church.²⁰ Upon his death in 1932, he was eulogized in a local newspaper as "a well-known figure in local financial circles for over a half century."²¹

Until his death in 1932, following his wife's in 1917, George W. Eckhart remained a resident of Wheeling living in the Woodsdale area that is commonly referred to as the country or "out-the-pike," a colloquial phrase that connotes respectability.²²

According to the deed records, the Eckhart family sold the house in 1905 to Sally Rau, wife of R.M. Rau, a local physician and surgeon. The 1905-06 city directory, however, has no listing for Mr. R.M. Rau or his wife. One year later, in 1906, the property changed ownership again to Carrie Gutman Klee and her husband, Leon. The city directory for 1907-08 shows that they did, in fact, take up residency at 810 Main Street. Over subsequent years, the property changed ownership five times, often between family members. In spite of the turnover in occupancy, the house has remained in remarkable condition with original mantles, hardwood floors and stained glass windows.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The G.W. Eckhart House is a Queen Anne town house (detached urban house), with a Romanesque-style porch that was added to the original 1891 design between 1902 and 1921. The oriel window with decorative trim and rounded underside, the mansard roof with decorative slate shingles, and the gabled windows are all stock architectural features of Queen Anne eclecticism, the dominant style of domestic building during the late-nineteenth century. According to architectural historian Gwendolyn Wright, Queen Anne "was the most common generic term, in England and the United States, to describe the eclectic houses or institutional buildings that featured any or all of the hodgepodge of materials and details which supposedly characterized a distinct historical style." Lacking a precise definition, the Queen Anne style can be characterized as "a matter of symbolic reference and inference, romantic inspiration and individualized interpretation. . . ." ²³

2. Condition of fabric: The overall condition of the house is good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The general layout of the building is rectangular with the dimensions 31'x84'. It has three stories with a raised basement and one oriel across the west elevation (Main Street) at the second story.

2. Foundations: Stone foundation with raised basement of rock-faced stone and smooth stone water table.

3. Walls; North elevation: red brick common bond. South elevation: red brick common bond. East elevation: red brick common bond. The mansard is covered with decorative slate shingles and a false gable wall. West elevation: red brick common bond.

4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame with load-bearing exterior masonry walls.

5. Porches: The raised, red brick porch has two wide, rounded brick arches across the front elevation and one at each end. The arches spring from squat, square brick columns with concrete bases and square, brick cushion capitals with concrete square tops. The molded brick cornice has decorative brick dentils that parallel the motif established by the molded brick frieze on the building's facade. The smooth, cut stone foundation has two semicircular grated openings across the front elevation that ventilate the crawl space under the porch. The smooth, cut stone stairway is located

along the north elevation of the porch.

6. Chimneys: Five inside, red brick chimneys with corbeled cap and one central, red brick chimney with corbeled cap.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Two sets of double wood doors at the front entranceway with rounded top. The exterior doors are seven-paneled, seven-tiered with seven-paneled, seven-tiered, recessed surround. In the rear, the two exterior wood doors are six-paneled, three-tiered with transom. A storm widow has been added to one transom.

b. Windows and shutters: One-over-one light, double-hung wooden sash with wooden trim, stone lintel and sill. On the front elevation at the first level, there is a circular stained glass window above a single-light window with wooden surround. At the second level there is a single-light arched window with stain glass in the arch, wooden surround and arched stone lintel and stone sill. There is an oriel window with three, one-over-one double-hung windows. The oriel has a decorative wood cornice with dentils and a scalloped wood skirt and pellet trim at the base followed by a rounded underside with a painted, pressed metal pendant at the bottom. There are seven wood panels arranged in seven tiers on each window side, painted to match the colors of the slate shingle of the mansard.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Mansard with flat sides typical of a Queen Anne town house. There are three painted, pressed tin finials at the third story level and two others of different design at the roof level. Additionally, there is a decorative, molded brick frieze under the mansard.

b. Cornice: Corbeled wood and painted press tin cornice.

c. Dormers: There is one pedimented front dormer and two pedimented dormers in back.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: See Supplemental Material.

2. Stairways: There is a three-run, open-well, wooden staircase beginning in the entrance hall up to the second floor and a winder to the third floor. It has carved newel posts at each landing with the most elaborate at the entrance hall level. There are pendants projecting down at each soffit where the stairway turns, and paired balusters connected by double cross bars. The closed-paneled stringer understair on the first floor conceals a closet door. It appears that a staircase original to the 1891 design of the house is located off the kitchen. Presently it is enclosed by walls and nonaccessible. There is a single-flight, closed stairway in the rear of the house that leads to the basement.

3. Flooring: They are generally narrow board wooden flooring with inlaid pattern and natural finish. The second floor front bedroom and parlor has a chevron border.

On the floor in the small vestibule between the entryway doors are black and white tiles arranged in a decorative pattern with a border.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Lincrusta wainscoting, embossed pressed wood pulp with glue resin wallcovering, in a heavy interlocking floral design is in the entrance hall and continues up the stairs throughout the hallways of the second and third floor. The front parlour has wall covering on the walls and ceiling that is not original to the house. The lined border was stenciled but the roses were hand-painted in oil. The kitchen has molded wood wainscoting that has been stained dark brown.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The interior double wood doors of the front entranceway are 3-paneled and 3-tiered with a rounded top; the central tier is glass-paneled and the other two tiers are wood-paneled. The closet door under the staircase in the reception hall is fifteen-paneled and five-tiered, stained dark brown. The doorway between the reception hall and the parlour has sliding pocket, twenty-four paneled, six-tiered, double wooden doors stained dark brown. In the doorway opening there is decorative fretwork of wood knobs and machine-turned wood spindles in a geometric design. The doorway between the reception hall and the dining room has sliding pocket, twelve-paneled, six-tiered, double wooden doors, stained dark brown. In the doorway opening is decorative fretwork of wood knob and machine-turned wood spindles in a radiating pattern. The doorway between the parlour and the living room has sliding pocket, eighteen-paneled, six-tiered double wooden doors, stained dark brown. The doorway between the living room and the dining room has sliding pocket, eighteen-paneled, six-tiered, double wooden doors, stained dark brown. Also on the first floor there is one eight-paneled, four-tiered wooden door with a two-paneled, two-tiered transom. The doors on the second and third floor are generally six-paneled and five-tiered, wooden doors stained dark brown. All the door and doorways have symmetrically-molded wood trim with corner blocks, stained dark brown.

b. Windows: There is a stained glass transom over the interior set of double doors in the entranceway. In the window box of the reception hall there is a circular-shaped window of rust-toned stained glass. Along the main staircase at the first level there is a large, one-over-one double-hung window with squares of stained glass around the perimeter. In the kitchen there are two-over-two, double-hung windows. On the second floor there is a shuttered window-seat area in the parlor; and a round headed stained-glass window with shutters in the front bedroom on the second floor. There are two skylights in the bedroom off the stairwell that are not original to the house and one skylight in the linen room. The linen room also has a six-light window with wood surround. The third floor bedroom window is deeply recessed with a wooden seat sill. All of the windows have symmetrically-molded trim with corner blocks stained dark brown.

6. Decorative features and trim:

Entrance Hall: The oak mantle has a round column on each side with decorative capital supporting the mantle shelf with cornice. The mantelpiece includes two smaller round columns identical in design to those of the mantle, a wooden-framed, beveled mirror and a decorative cornice. In the architrave, below the mantle shelf,

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is a low relief, carved wood floral decoration. The rectangular opening of the fireplace has an off-white, glazed tile surround and hearth. In the opening of the window bay there is fretwork of wooden spindles and knobs arranged in an arched fashion and a low, built-in, wooden window seat under the stained glass window. There are also decorative wood corner guards.

Parlor: The oak mantle has two engaged pilasters framing the rectangular opening of the fireplace. The mantelpiece has a wooden-framed mirror with a decorative trim of carved pellets, shells and leaves design. The fireplace has a white, glazed tile surround, and hearth with a decorative tile border of floral design. The iron grate has elaborate details including the sculpted faces of Tragedy and Comedy in the upper corners.

Living Room: The oak mantle has two fluted columns with a curved capital framing the rectangular opening of the fireplace and supporting the mantle shelf. Above the mantle shelf is a rectangular mirror attached to the wall. It is not part of the mantle. The fireplace has an iron chimneypiece with a floral design and a surround constituted by one row of dark green rectangular tiles followed by several rows of square, light-green glazed tiles. The hearth has identical tiles. Next to the mantle is a built-in wood cabinet with wood-framed glass doors.

Dining Room: The oak mantle has two round columns with a corinthian capital and square base framing the rectangular opening of the fireplace and supporting a mantle shelf with cornice. Directly above the fireplace opening is a shallow cornice and shelf. The cornice of the mantelpiece has an egg and dart trim and the entablature has a low-relief wooden decoration. Square, honey-colored glazed tile constitute the fireplace surround and hearth. There is a dumb waiter in the north wall with wooden door and wooden architrave trim. There is a wooden shelf underneath the door, supported by three wooden brackets.

Master Bedroom: The oak mantel has two twisted columns, one on each side of the rectangular fireplace opening, which support the mantle shelf. Below the shelf, above the fireplace opening, are three wooden flowers, carved in relief and arranged in one tier. The wooden mantelpiece has a rectangular mirror flanked on each side by another twisted column which supports another shelf, decorative wood frieze in a floral motif and pellet trim, and cornice. Brown, green, and purple glazed tiles constitute the surround and hearth. The iron grate with ornamental detailing is identical to the grate in the adjoining parlor. There is decorative fretwork in the opening of the bay window of turned spindles and knobs arranged in a radiating pattern with two horizontal bands of alternating jigsaw cutouts of diamonds and clovers. There is a low-built wooden seating area inside the bay with storage space inside; built-in wooden bookcases along the north wall that are not original to the house; and two decorative wood corner guards at the opening of the bay.

Second Floor Parlor: The oak mantle frames the rectangular opening of the fireplace and supports the mantleself. The mantelpiece, which is a separate piece from the mantle, has two small side shelves supported by spindles, decorative knobwork, and three beveled mirrors--a large, rectangular mirror in the center flanked by two small square mirrors. It is possible that the mantelpiece was a later addition to the mantle. There is an iron grate with decorative detailing in the fireplace opening.

Second Floor Bedroom (off stairwell): The wooden mantle and mantle shelf is painted to look like black marble. There is an ornamental iron chimneypiece and iron grate

with decorative detailing. The surround and hearth are constituted by polygonal-shaped, rust and beige-colored glazed tile. There is a border along the hearth of rectangular-shaped glazed tile. There is one decorative, wooden corner guard.

Second Floor Linen Room: There is a built-in wooden cabinet with two-paneled, wooden doors.

Second Floor Bedroom (rear): There is a small fireplace faced with salmon-colored tile.

Third Floor Bedroom: The wood mantle is painted to look like black marble. Carved wooden brackets support the mantle shelf and decorative detailing has been carved into the wood above the rectangular fireplace. The fireplace is closed with a small, protruding gas pipe. There is a decorative iron chimneypiece. Under the window facing west is a low, wooden shelf supported by wooden brackets. Against the north wall is low-built, wooden seating with storage inside that is not original to the house. There is one decorative, wooden corner guard.

Third Floor Hallway: There is one decorative, wooden corner guard.

7. Hardware: The front and the back of the exterior entrance doors and the front of the interior entrance doors have molded brass door knobs and plates. A leaf design covers the face of the door knob and is located at the ends of the plates. The back of each of the two interior entrance doors has a brass door knob and plate with a repeated, four-leaf flower motif. This pattern can also be found on the pulls and knobs of the closet door under the stairwell. The two, brass pull locks on the back of the exterior entrance doors are decorated with a leaf motif identical in pattern to the design of the door knobs. The two, brass pull locks on the back of the interior entrance doors are ornamented in a four-leaf flower motif identical in pattern to the design of the door knobs. The brass pulls on the double sliding doors on the first floor are ornamented with the four-leaf, flower motif. The third floor door off the stairwell has a decorative brass door knob and plate in a heraldic design. The third floor bedroom door has a brass door knob and plate decorated with a combination of a geometric and floral pattern.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, ventilation: Modern heating and ventilation system with a forced air furnace. Decorative iron grates that cover ventilation and heating system openings can be found throughout the house in the floor and walls.
- b. Lighting: Modern lighting system with original light fixtures on the walls of the dining room and an original gasolier, piped for gas and wired for electricity, in the master bedroom.
- c. Plumbing: Modern plumbing system with automatic water heater.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is situated on the east side of Main Street, directly off the sidewalk facing a paved street. It rests on a parcel of property 33' x 126' abutting a strip of ground of uniform width of six feet off the rear of the property that is part of an alley running from Eighth Street to alley 5 and owned by

the City of Wheeling. To the right of the facade is a narrow, concrete walkway leading to the rear of the building. There is no front lawn or garden.

2. Historic landscape design: None.

3. Outbuildings: Brick garage at the rear of the property.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Books:

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E. Sources Not Yet Investigated:

I. Plumbing Plans of the Hare Plumbing & Supply Company, which was in operation during the 1880s and '90s, donated to The Friends of Wheeling, Wheeling, WV.

F. Supplemental Material:

1. First Floor Plan.
2. Second Floor Plan.
3. Third Floor Plan.

4. The Eckhart House and neighborhood in 1902. Insurance Maps of Wheeling, WV.
New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1901.

Prepared by: Arlene R. Kriv
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
August 1990

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Historic Wheeling Recording Project was undertaken during the summer of 1990 by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert J. Kapsch, chief, division of the National Park Service. The funding was provided by West Virginia University through the Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archeology, Emory L. Kemp, director. Local sponsorship was provided by the Victorian Wheeling Landmark Foundation, Betty Nutting, Bill Fields, and Frances Williams, principals. The project was supervised by Paul D. Dolinsky, chief of HABS, and Project Leader, with Joseph Balachowski, architect and Catherine C. Lavoie, Historian as project managers. The large format photography was the work of Jack E. Boucher, HABS photographer.

The documentation was produced in the HABS/HAER Field Office, Wheeling, West Virginia in 1990 by Professor John P. Witte, Supervisory Architect, Texas Tech University; Architectural Technicians Joelynn Barclay, University of Texas at Arlington; Tatiana Begelman, Columbia University; Steven C. Byington, Texas Tech University; Lazlo A. Darago, Technical University of Budapest (U.S.-ICOMOS, Hungary); Harold E. Phelps III, University of Southern California; Mark A. Radven, Texas Tech University; Historians Arlene R. Kriv, Rutgers University; and Lee R. Maddex, West Virginia University.

NOTES:

1. Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, Oct. 29, 1891, 5.
2. W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1891)
3. W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1890-91).
4. Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, Oct. 29, 1891, 5.
5. The Insurance Maps of 1902 and 1921 demonstrate that such changes were made. It is difficult to ascertain the type of porch that existed according to the map of 1902. Its narrow width coupled with structural indications from the building itself suggest that it might have been a landing with a stairway.
6. The 1962 Property Record Card for parcel no. 39 in the Washington District of Wheeling, known as 810 Main Street, classifies the age of the garage as "old." The garage does not appear on the 1921 Sanborn; it is noted on the 1959 Sanborn map.

7. Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, Oct. 29, 1891, 5.
8. Wright, 81.
9. Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, Oct. 29, 1891, 5.
10. Wheeling Intelligencer, Oct. 29, 1891, 5.
11. The Wheeling Register, City of Wheeling: Its History and Institutions, (Wheeling: The Wheeling Register, 1896) 52, 56.
12. Ainsworth, 4.
13. Newton, 249.
14. Ainsworth, 72.
15. Fetherling, 61; McConnell, 46.
16. W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory. (1888), 17.
17. McConnell, 44, 48.
18. It has been surmised by local historians that many of the Italianate row houses were originally Colonial in style and later embellished with Italianate architectural features such as wooden window hoods and elaborate cornices.
19. Wheeling City Directory, (1890-91) W.L. Callin. Early photographic views of the homes of Wm. F. Stifel, Christian Hess and George E. Stifel can be found among the photographic illustrations in Wheeling.
20. Wingerter, 644.
21. Wheeling News Register, March 15, 1932
22. Fetherling, 62.
23. Wright, 63.

Insurance Maps of Wheeling WV. New York: Sanborn Map Company,
1902. (West Virginia Collection, WVU).

Figure #1

G.W. ECKHART HOUSE
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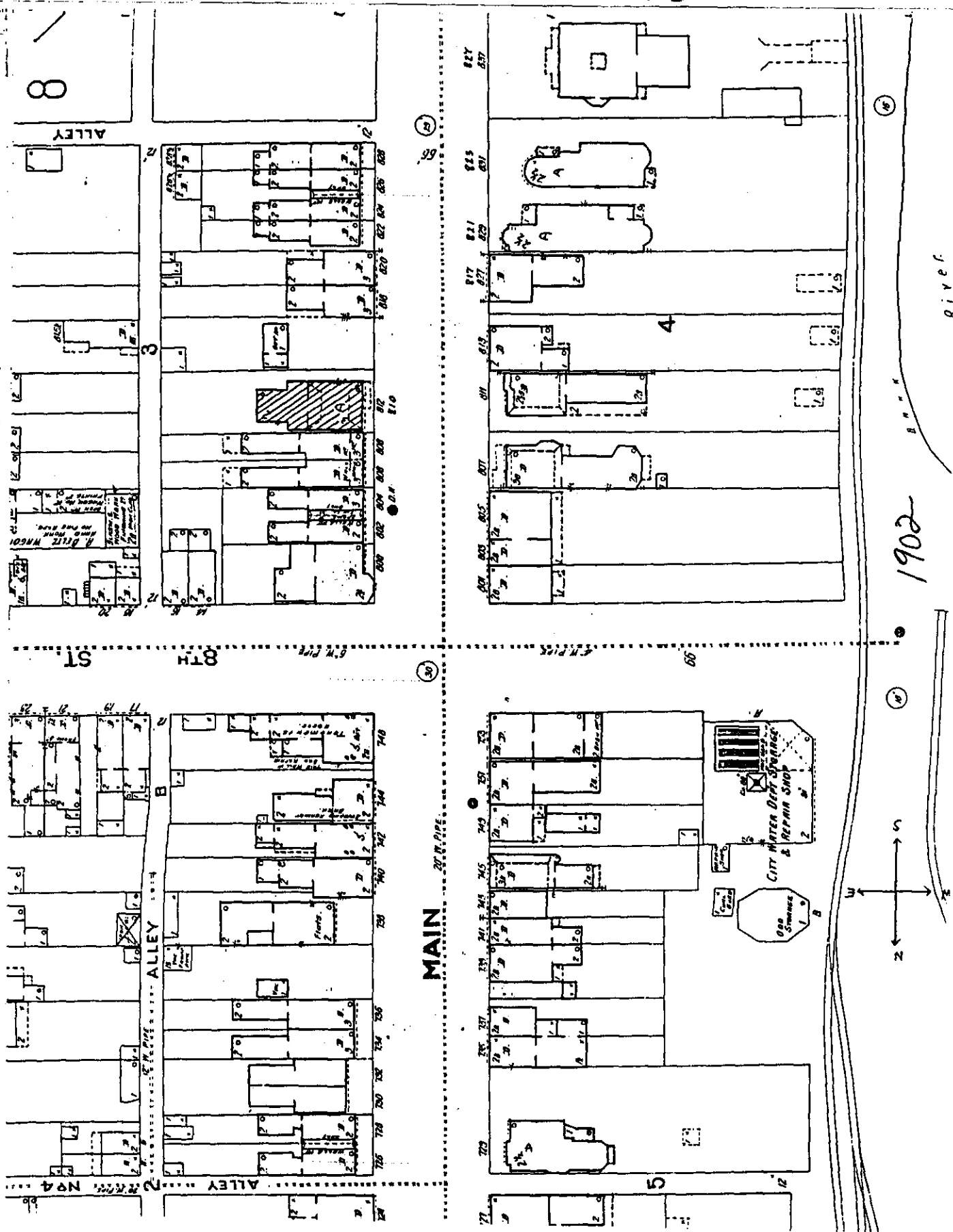
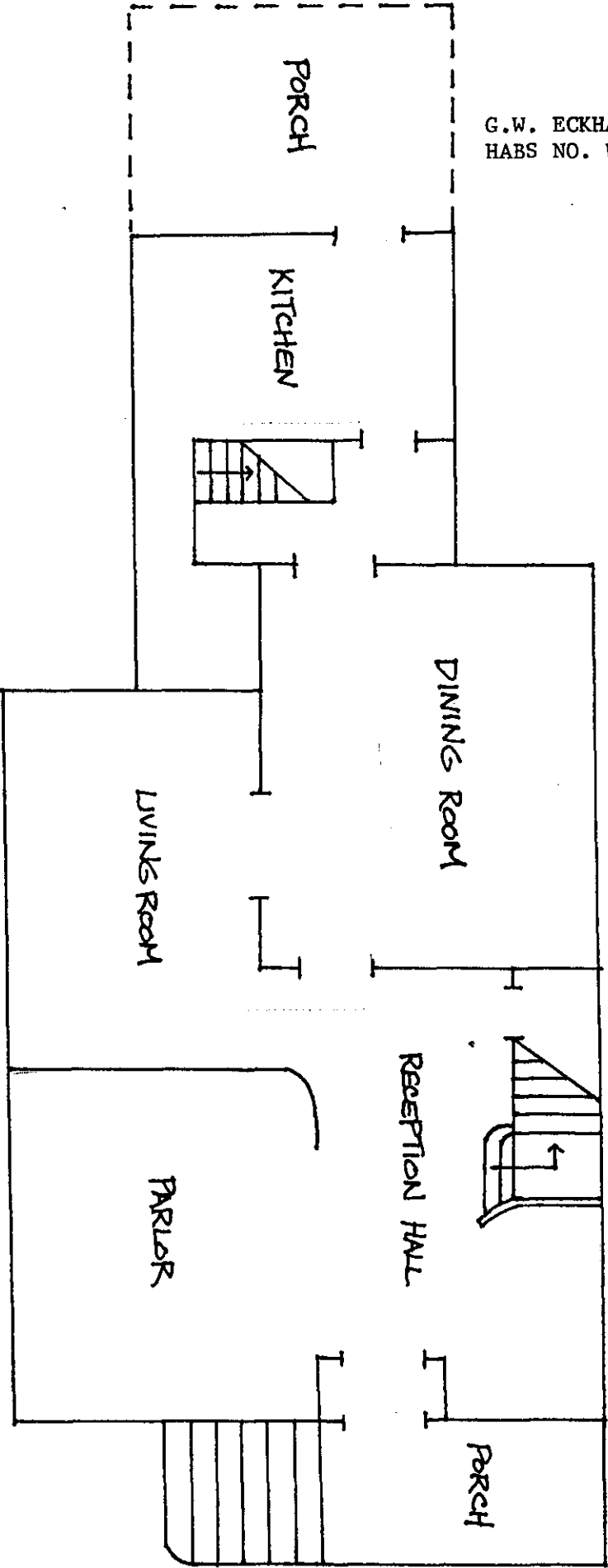


Figure #2

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

NO SCALE



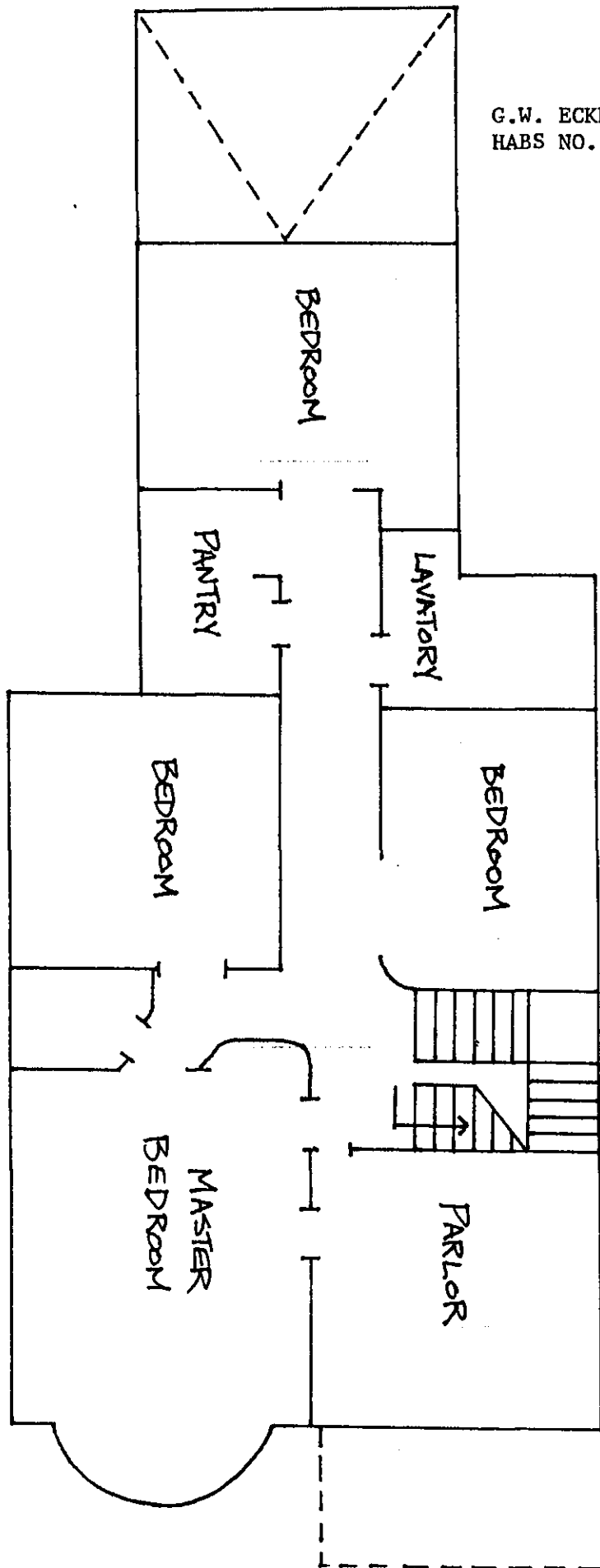
G.W. ECKHART HOUSE
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Figure #3

G.W. ECKHART HOUSE
HABS NO. WV-252 (page 19)

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SECOND FLOOR PLAN



NO SCALE

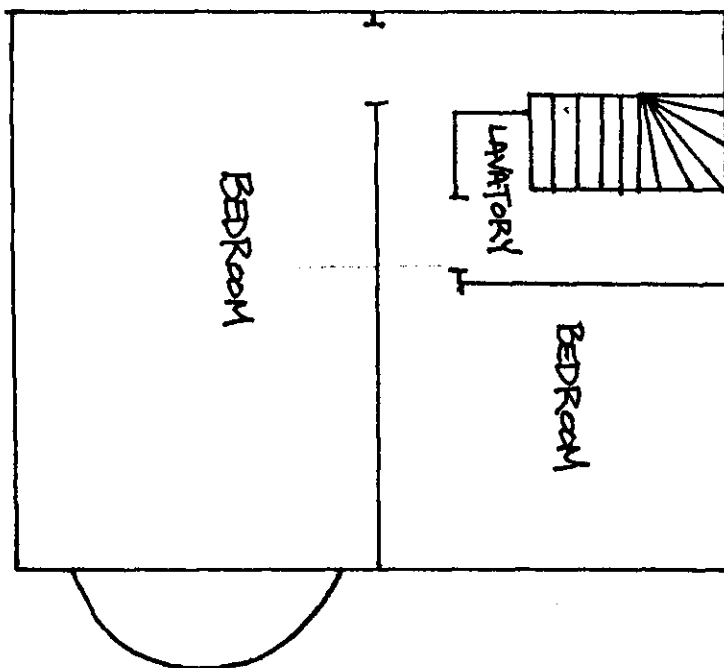
Figure #4

G.W. ECKHART HOUSE
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THIRD FLOOR PLAN

NO SCALE



ADDENDUM TO:
GEORGE W. ECKHART HOUSE
810 Main Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS WV-253
WVA, 35-WHEEL, 36-

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